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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/720,496

11/24/2003

Chris L. Martin

04193.913

4573

7590

10/03/2006

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EXAMINER

MAI, TRI M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3727

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/720,496

Applicant(s)

MARTIN, CHRIS L.

Examiner

Tri M. Mai

Art Unit

3727

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

Group 1 :	The blank in Fig. 1	and the corresponding container,
Group 2 :	The blank in Fig. 2	and the corresponding container,
Group 3 :	The blank in Fig. 3	and the corresponding container,
Group 4 :	The blank in Fig. 4	and the corresponding container,
Group 5 :	The blank in Fig. 5	and the corresponding container,
Group 6 :	The blank in Fig. 6	and the corresponding container,
Group 7 :	The blank in Fig. 7	and the corresponding container,
Group 8 :	The blank in Fig. 8	and the corresponding container,
Group 9 :	The blank in Fig. 9	and the corresponding container,
Group 10 :	The blank in Fig. 10	and the corresponding container,
Group 11 :	The blank in Fig. 11	and the corresponding container,
Group 12 :	The blank in Fig. 12	and the corresponding container,
Group 13 :	The blank in Fig. 13	and the corresponding container,
Group 14 :	The blank in Fig. 14	and the corresponding container,
Group 15 :	The blank in Fig. 15	and the corresponding container,
Group 16 :	The blank in Fig. 16	and the corresponding container,
Group 17 :	The blank in Fig. 17	and the corresponding container,
Group 18 :	The blank in Fig. 18	and the corresponding container,
Group 19 :	The blank in Fig. 19	and the corresponding container,
Group 20 :	The blank in Fig. 20	and the corresponding container,
Group 21 :	The blank in Fig. 21	and the corresponding container,
Group 22 :	The blank in Fig. 22	and the corresponding container,
Group 23 :	The blank in Fig. 23	and the corresponding container,
Group 24 :	The blank in Fig. 24	and the corresponding container,
Group 25 :	The blank in Fig. 25	and the corresponding container,
Group 26 :	The blank in Fig. 26	and the corresponding container,
Group 27 :	The blank in Fig. 27	and the corresponding container,
Group 28 :	The blank in Fig. 28	and the corresponding container,
Group 29 :	The blank in Fig. 29	and the corresponding container,
Group 30 :	The blank in Fig. 30	and the corresponding container,
Group 31 :	The blank in Fig. 31	and the corresponding container,
Group 32 :	The blank in Fig. 32	and the corresponding container,
Group 33 :	The blank in Fig. 33	and the corresponding container,
Group 34 :	The blank in Fig. 34	and the corresponding container,
Group 35 :	The blank in Fig. 35	and the corresponding container,
Group 36 :	The blank in Fig. 36	and the corresponding container,
Group 37 :	The blank in Fig. 37	and the corresponding container,
Group 38 :	The blank in Fig. 38	and the corresponding container,
Group 39 :	The blank in Fig. 39	and the corresponding container,
Group 40 :	The blank in Fig. 40	and the corresponding container,
Group 41 :	The blank in Fig. 41	and the corresponding container,
Group 42 :	The blank in Fig. 42	and the corresponding container,
Group 43 :	The blank in Fig. 43	and the corresponding container,

Group 44 : The blank in Fig. 44 and the corresponding container,

2. The species are independent or distinct because each of the disclosed species is independent from the other with respect to the specificities to the type of tear lines, the location of the hinge line and the specificities of the perforations.

3. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claim is generic.

4. Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

5. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

6. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

7. Due to the numerous embodiments and claims of the disclosure, applicant is reminded that the requirement of this election require the election of a single disclosed species and to provide a correct listing of all claims readable thereon. If applicant provides a listing including

such a claim that is not readable on the elected species, the examiner **will not** consider such a response a bona fide attempt.

8. The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

9. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tri M. Mai whose telephone number is (571)272-4541. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Newhouse can be reached on (571)272-4544. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3727

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Tri M. Mai  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3727

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Mai', is positioned to the right of the typed name.